A CANADIAN CHRISTMAS
TENORS BUILDING ON SUCCESS {page 20}

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HOLLYWOOD'S HIGHS AND LOWS OF '10 {page 23}

ROCKS
WHERE SCARJO AND RYAN'S MARRIAGE WAS
{page 28}

OTTAWA metro®
Thursday, December 23, 2010
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

Mother wrestles with son's death

Police continue probing circumstances of drowning ◐ Community mourns death of outgoing, polite nine-year-old ◐ Community centre opens doors for those mourning

MAIN: SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO, INSET: FACEBOOK.COM

▶ Olisa Joseph

▶ A children's play area stands near the Rideau River, where Olisa Joseph slipped in Tuesday. A trail of footprints was visible near the water's edge yesterday.

SEAN MCKIBBON
@METRONEWS.CA

Friends and neighbours reacted with shock yesterday to news of the drowning death of nine-year-old Olisa (Oli) Joseph.

"If I ever had a kid, I would have wanted him to be like Oli. He was a good kid, very protective of his sister. His mother, Donna, is a good woman too. We need more people like that," neighbour Mary Williams said.

"If there is something we can do to help the community and make it safer, we'll do it."
RIDEAU-VANIER COUN. MATHIEU FLEURY

She said it had been a hard time already for the Joseph family with the loss of Olisa's grandfather two weeks ago.

Olisa slipped on the icy shore of the Rideau River and fell into the water Tuesday while playing with a friend. A small bay with an open stretch of shoreline lies only metres away from a park with a play structure and swings.

Coun. Mathieu Fleury of Rideau-Vanier ward said that the city will have to review safety precautions at the site but that not enough information is available yet.

"The city is looking into how we can work with the family," Fleury said, adding the Sandy Hill Community Centre had opened its counselling services to those grieving for Olisa.

Health care

Flaherty flirts with home care

◐ Plan would provide funds for those taking time off work to care for elderly or sick family ◐ Liberals have already proposed $1-billion plan {page 7}

Goodbye to bad trends

Shutting the door to 2010 means learning what not to wear anymore {page 29}

What's holding the economy in a headlock?

2011's growth could be stunted by the things that have made it prosper {page 16}

You're down to the wire

Last-minute gift ideas for you procrastinators {pages 33-39}

Will TV meet its demise in 2011?

Executives aim to learn from music industry's descent {page 22}

MATTAMY homes

Collections & Recollections.

Every Christmas we have the good fortune to gather with friends and family and recollect the memories of Christmas past. Those times in our youth that can never be forgotten.

For many Canadian families the traditions of Christmas include a collection of some kind. Perhaps a new tree ornament appears each year. Maybe there's an ever-expanding collection of nutcrackers, large and small. For some, these collections stretch back through the mists of time.

Collections help us make recollections. They allow us to open up our memories and recall the stories behind various pieces of the collection. But more importantly, they allow us to remember the relatives behind the collection. The eccentric aunt. The jolly uncle. The stern but loving grandmother. The mysterious cousin who was always just getting back from somewhere and had mystical stories to tell of strange lands far away.

The warmth of Christmas rests in these stories. It's these recollections that make us feel that we are part of something bigger. And in the end, whether it is a collection of family heirlooms, or just a recollection of a loved one, the important and magical thing is that each Christmas, every single member of the family, through all time, is there in the room.

A very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to one and all.

www.mattamyhomesottawa.com

Donation shortfall hampers local charity

'I've never seen it this bad in 12 Christmases': Organizer

JOE LOFARO
OTTAWA@METRONEWS.CA

As Christmas approaches, Marilyn Matheson is worried about the 660 families on her list who are in need this holiday season.

"The situation is really bad," said Matheson, executive director of The Christmas Exchange.

Her organization delivers donated Christmas hampers and gift certificates to the less fortunate.

This year, there has been a decline in donations in Ottawa, leaving hundreds of families in need.

Last year's recession and lower incomes have contributed to the shortage of donations, said Matheson.

"There are going to be several hundred families who are not going to be helped, who will wake up on Christmas morning and tell their kids there's no special Christmas dinner," she said.

Donations will be accepted before New Year's Eve to support families who still need items.

Seasonal need

The Christmas Exchange is still looking for donations.

- The organization has already sent out over 9,500 gift certificates to 9,500 families across the city to buy their own food, clothing and other necessities.
- The donated hampers vary by family size and can include a chicken, a turkey or both, with stuffing, rice, bread, milk, canned vegetables, potatoes, cookies and chocolates.
- More than 250 volunteers are responsible for making calls and for packing and delivering hampers.

11,000
children have already received Christmas Exchange gift certificates this year.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ A volunteer carries a hamper filled with food items for the Ottawa Christmas Exchange.

United Way needs more, too

United Way Ottawa, still about $800,000 short of this year's fundraising goal, is appealing to donors who haven't yet made their holiday giving decisions.

So far, they've raised $32.3 million of a targeted $33.1 million, with record contributions this year from the Ottawa Catholic School Board and federal public servants.

"There's a number of donors, frankly, who look towards the year end as the best time to make their contribution," said Michael Allen, United Way Ottawa's president and CEO. "So we're following up with all those donors as well. So the work carries on. It's just not quite as public as during our campaign time."

New requests from community agencies for funding are up 40 per cent this year, he said.

STEVE COLLINS

"One of the things we like to say about United Way is that it's the least exclusive club in Ottawa. All you have to do is care about your community and have a desire to contribute."

MICHAEL ALLEN, UNITED WAY

News in brief

Two in hospital after car crash

AUTO ACCIDENT. Two people were injured in a two-vehicle crash at Wellington and Booth streets just west of downtown early yesterday morning.

Two people were taken to hospital with head lacerations.

TRACEY TONG

Abandoned house destroyed

BLAZE. A fire destroyed an abandoned house early yesterday morning, firefighters said.

A fire was reported at 8213 Flewellyn Rd. just before 1 a.m. It was under control about two hours later. An investigator was called in to determine the cause. Results of the investigation are not yet known. Firefighters estimate damages at $300,000. TRACEY TONG

1 news

Insults, giggling and a whiff of pot smoke among 2010 airport security complaints. Scan code for story.

1 Download the free ScanLife application with your smartphone at 2dscan.com

2 Use the ScanLife application on your smartphone to scan 2D barcodes in Metro

3 The codes will direct your mobile browser to relevant content at **m.metronews.ca**

On the web at metronews.ca

Familiar chirp at busy crosswalks set to be replaced by the 'Canadian melody.' Video at metronews.ca

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Stocking full of coal may not be the worst of the holidays

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Carleton University professor Hymie Anisman.

Around this time of the year, most people are in pretty good spirits, but that's not always the case, an expert said earlier this week.

The most depressing day of the year — Jan. 17 — is still few weeks away, but even now, when everything is supposed to be merry and bright, this time of year can be distressing for some, said Hymie Anisman, professor in the department of neuroscience at Carleton University.

"The majority of people are whistling and singing and they're OK," said Anisman. But for others, the holidays can be miserable.

"For some people, shopping is not a pleasant experience. They don't like crowds, and they don't like noise," said Anisman, whose area of expertise is stress and coping.

"For others, this time of year means family commitments they don't want to go to. Other people feel overwhelming loneliness when everyone around them is apparently feeling happy and they're left by themselves."

One of the methods of coping is social support, said Anisman.

And around the holidays, it can be very apparent when a person doesn't have one.

"There may be feelings of loneliness. You feel like an outsider."

And if a person has suffered a loss in the preceding year, the holidays can serve as a negative reminder that they're not here ... Christmas can act as a trigger to cruddy feelings."

"This time of year is stressful, and it's a combination of things. There's a whole bunch of factors — family, financial pressures, and feelings of loneliness."
HYMIE ANISMAN, CARLETON UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

People who already suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder can find their conditions exacerbated by this time of year, said Anisman. ● TRACEY TONG

For more local news visit metronews.ca

Cause it's tough eating alone

- Organizers of the Christmas Day Dinner urge you 'not to be alone'
- Event features a dozen entertainment acts organized by Open Stage Revue

TRACEY TONG
@METRONEWS.CA

TRACEY TONG/METRO

▶ The event has been "a success right from the beginning," said Hintonburg Economic Committee co-chair Vance Fandrey. "It's grown every year."

Like many good ideas, it started with a need in the community.

With a large number of rooming houses in the Hintonburg community, a blues bar owner mentioned putting on a free Christmas dinner for people who might otherwise be alone, or couldn't afford a meal.

The idea sparked the imagination of the people in the community.

The owners of the Carleton Tavern, Sam and Simon Saikaley, volunteered their restaurant as a venue. Businesses and members of the community pitched in, giving money and food donations to help those less fortunate have a happier holiday.

"We were surprised by how successful it was," remembered Vance Fandrey, co-chair of the Hintonburg Economic Development Committee, which co-sponsors and helps to organize the event. "We were flying by the seat of our pants."

"This dinner is a companionship thing. It's hard to eat a turkey by yourself."
VANCE FANDREY, HINTONBURG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

A decade later, the Carleton Tavern is again preparing to host the annual Christmas Day Dinner.

The event is still free and going strong, with hundreds of donors and volunteers ready to welcome an anticipated 700 people on Dec. 25.

Although the event is free for anyone who can't afford it, Fandrey said "the social need is greater than the economic need.

"There were a lot of rooming houses in the neighbourhood at that time, and there still are a few. And there's a huge seniors' residence on Wellington."

The 4-1-1

The Christmas Day Dinner is held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

- The dinner is held at the Carleton Tavern at 223 Armstrong St., next to the Parkdale Market.
- A vegetarian option will be provided by Indian Express.
- No wheels? No problem. Contact the tavern to arrange a ride to the dinner.

Donations are still welcome

Donations to the Christmas Day Dinner continue to be welcome. People can drop off donations of turkeys, ham and baked goods for the dinner as well as new gifts for adults. Unwrapped gifts can be dropped off at the Carleton Tavern. For information or to donate, call Fandrey at 613-728-7582 before Christmas or 613-728-4424 on Christmas Day.
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Happy New Year
Members earn Double Rewards Points on selected products

This year in politics

Busts, buzz, bureaucracy shook up federal politics in 2010 But in the end it was all smoke, little fire

Canadians couldn't have known it at the time, but the first eight weeks of 2010 neatly summed up the year to come in federal politics: A raging, rancorous debate about nothing happening in the House of Commons.

For all the heat and fury that followed, only a few decisions of substance remain: Canadians will soldier on for another three years in Afghanistan; the infrastructure stimulus deadline has been extended by a few months; consumer protection legislation gives Ottawa new enforcement powers and requires mandatory reporting of injuries and deaths related to products.

Otherwise it was a year of "grinding mediocrity" — to quote Liberal House leader Ralph Goodale.

But in the spirit of the season, rather than wallowing in the bile that was, here's a look back on 2010 with bemused indulgence:

Prime Minister Stephen Harper made a strong, late bid with his five-song set at a Conservative Christmas soiree. But it was too little, too late.

He was outdone by the Jaffer-Guergis affair — a saga that had it all involving one of Canada's political power couples.

Rahim Jaffer, the former national Tory caucus chairman, ended up with a fine for careless driving.

Helena Guergis wound up expelled from cabinet and the Conservative caucus despite never being told what she had done wrong. Then there's the fact that an RCMP probe found no evidence of any wrongdoing by Guergis.

The story even has a Hollywood ending. Guergis gave birth to a healthy baby boy on Dec. 15 — her husband's 39th birthday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nowhere road

- **Biggest weekend blowout:** The G8-G20 binge in June. The twin summits cost more than $1 billion and left a civil rights hangover that seems to get more oppressive with time.
- **Longest road trip to nowhere:** Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff spent the summer visiting 102 cities and towns involving 166 public events and covering 57,000 kilometres. The effort may have nudged Liberal party popularity up by as much as two whole percentage points, according to polls by The Canadian Press Harris-Decima.
- **Second-longest road trip to nowhere:** Bloc Leader Gilles Duceppe toured Europe promoting Quebec sovereignty.

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

▶ Prime Minister Stephen Harper performs with the band Herringbone during the Conservative Caucus Christmas Party in Ottawa earlier this month.

Suncor fined for dumping in Alberta river

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Rick George, president and CEO of Suncor Energy.

Oilsands giant Suncor has been fined $200,000 for dumping material harmful to fish into a northern Alberta river.

Suncor Energy Inc. was fined Tuesday after pleading guilty to federal Fisheries Act charges.

Environment Canada says the fine was for the release of effluent in 2008 from sediment ponds built as part of Suncor operations near the Steepbank River north of Fort McMurray.

"We certainly regret that this incident happened. We are happy that there was no impact to the environment. But the fact remains that we didn't meet regulatory standards." SUNCOR REP BRAD BELLOWS

The material in the water was clay and other natural materials and did not include oilsands or tailings pond effluent, Mike Bell, an Environment Canada spokesman said yesterday.

"It was not tailings ponds, it was total suspended solids — matter suspended in water," Bell said. "It is deleterious to fish because it interrupts their respiration and can impact habitat as well."

Much of the fine will be paid into the federal government's Environmental Damages Fund.

Suncor said it accepts full responsibility for what happened and reached an agreement with the federal Crown on the fine.

The fine was imposed the same day that Ottawa promised to improve oilsands environmental monitoring in response to a report that found "significant shortcomings" in the current system.

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Provinces win right to regulate in-vitro fertilization

Justice Thomas Cromwell offers determining view in split vote Says many provisions fall under provinces

A divided Supreme Court of Canada has upheld the right of the provinces to regulate in-vitro fertilization. But the court said the federal government is within its rights in banning cloning and human hybrids.

The court issued a divided advisory opinion that grappled with the "weighty moral concerns" of assisted reproduction. It upheld in part a 2008 Quebec Court of Appeal decision that declared Ottawa overstepped itself in asserting its right to regulate the use of human sperm, eggs and embryos.

The court split 4-4-1 with Justice Thomas Cromwell offering the determining view in what amounted to a complex analysis of the time-honoured constitutional rights of provinces to control health care.

Power imbalance

Four other judges upheld the right of the provinces to regulate health care.

Justices Louis Lebel and Marie Deschamps wrote that although assisted human reproduction "raises moral and ethical questions," an overriding federal criminal law was not justified.

Quebec filed a constitutional challenge to the 2004 federal Assisted Human Reproduction Act and was supported by three other provinces. The province argued that Ottawa was treading on provincial jurisdiction over health care.

The act regulated the use of sperm, eggs and embryos, while banning clones and hybrids. Ottawa maintained it had the right to make criminal laws and that the purpose of the act was to protect the "health, safety and public morals" of Canadians. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Christmas. Miracle

▶ In a photo taken earlier this month, Tracy Hermanstorfer watches as Coltyn offers dad Mike Hermanstorfer a bite of a french fry at their home in Colorado Springs, Colo.

ED ANDRIESKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Happy to be alive, one year later

Tracy Hermanstorfer, now 34, went into cardiac arrest while preparing to give birth to Coltyn at Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs on Dec. 24, 2009. Doctors quickly delivered Coltyn by emergency Cesarean section, but he appeared lifeless. Mike Hermanstorfer, who was at his wife's side when her heart stopped beating, thought he had lost both her and their newborn son. But doctors revived Coltyn as Hermanstorfer cradled him in his arms, and about 45 minutes later, a nurse told him his wife's pulse had inexplicably returned.

Mayor had alliance: WikiLeaks

A U.S. diplomatic cable released by WikiLeaks says the mayor of Kingston, Jamaica, has acknowledged forging an alliance of convenience with an alleged drug baron to reduce crime in the sprawling slums. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Potential pardon stirs outrage

Scan code for story, or visit metronews.ca

Family loses home in fire

A family in Brantford, Ont., has lost their home and their puppies in a fire.

Brant County firefighters were on the scene for more than 12 hours as the blaze roared through a farmhouse overnight. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Harper Tories considering home-care plan

Opposition Liberals have already promised a $1-billion family-care initiative if they form government

The federal government is considering using the tax system to help Canadians take time off work to care for elderly or sick family members, says Finance Minister Jim Flaherty.

Flaherty said the problem was brought home to him during pre-budget consultations in the last few months. It has also been raised repeatedly by the opposition Liberals.

He didn't say he will propose measures in the next federal budget, but confirmed he has looked into the possibility and costs.

Baby boomers

- The challenge of the elderly is expected to become more acute in Canada starting next year, when the first wave of the Baby Boom demographic bulge enters retirement age.
- While such a proposal would likely be popular in what is expected to be a pre-election budget, a major stumbling block is cost.

"There are some tax initiatives that have been suggested, we've costed some, and it's an area where we have spent a fair amount of time ... It's fair to say the government is reviewing that area ... and the area of caregivers to persons with disabilities."

But he admitted a family-care program would be "expensive."

"We're not going to have any big new spending programs in the budget, but there will be re-allocations of some spending," he said. "Government programs don't have to go on forever."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

California. Evacuates

▶ A Laguna Beach police officer helps a woman across Pacific Coast Highway in Laguna Beach, Calif., yesterday.

DENIS POROY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Southern California awash in rain

Downtown Laguna Beach was closed by up to four feet of storm runoff. After days of relentless rain, Southern California is awaiting the most intense storm system yet, with evacuations ordered, roads covered by water and mud, and residents anxiously eyeing already saturated mountainsides denuded by wildfires.

Argentina dictator sentenced

Former dictator Jorge Videla was sentenced to life in prison yesterday for the torture and murder of 31 prisoners, most were "shot while trying to escape" in the months after his military coup.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Men guilty of suicide bomb plot

Three men who believed Islam was under threat from western nations were found guilty in an Australian court on Thursday of plotting a suicide attack against a Sydney army base.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mob behind video game bombing

Reputed Chicago mobster Michael (The Large Guy) Sarno, accused of orchestrating the bombing of a rival video gaming company, was convicted yesterday, with four members of his alleged crew.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Border drills raise Korea tensions

Massive exercise will involve 800 troops 33 kilometres south of border

South Korea vowed yesterday to "completely punish" North Korea if it attacks again, and mobilized hundreds of troops, tanks and helicopters for a massive military exercise prompted by high tensions on the peninsula.

The firing drills planned for today near the Koreas' heavily armed land border signalled that South Korea is willing to risk further escalating tensions with North Korea, which shelled a southern island off the western coast on Nov. 23 and stirred up a war-like atmosphere.

The attack, which killed four people, was portrayed by Pyongyang as a retaliation for southern military exercises on Yeonpyeong island that day.

South Korea has conducted 47 similar military drills this year, and it scheduled one more exercise for Thursday in response to the North Korean attack, an army officer said on condition of anonymity, citing department rules. Thursday's drill will be the biggest-ever wintertime joint firing exercise that South Korea's army and air force have staged, an army statement said.

"We will completely punish the enemy if it provokes us again like the shelling of Yeonpyeong Island," Brig. Gen. Ju Eun-sik, chief of the army's 1st armoured brigade, said separately.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big snow. U.S. west

▶ Cross country skiers in Crested Butte, Colo., yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/NATHAN BILOW

There's more coming

The U.S. National Weather Service has posted a winter storm warning for areas in Utah and the western mountains of Colorado. Flood warnings are also posted in Southern California from the same storm that reached from Hawaii to Colorado earlier this week.

Heathrow boss forfeits bonus

Heathrow's boss announced yesterday he would give up his hefty bonus this year after the world's busiest international airport was crippled by snowy conditions. Air and train travel throughout Europe finally began to return to normal.

Temperatures have picked up in Britain and about 70 per cent of Heathrow's planned departures — some 900 flights — were expected to operate yesterday. Airlines are trying to clear a backlog of cancelled flights, after iced-over runways and planes triggered days of chaos and misery for those seeking to travel elsewhere for Christmas.

Eurostar, which offers train services between England, France and Belgium, said routes were operating a near-normal schedule. Still it urged only customers with tickets to show up at terminals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police don't waffle on charges

A 31-year-old man charged with mischief after throwing waffles on the ice at a Toronto Maple Leafs game says he did it out of frustration at the underperforming team.

"I'm just a normal Leafs fan and love them to death," Joseph Robb of Oakville, Ont., said yesterday in an interview.

28 Toronto currently stands 28th in the 30-team league with a 12-17-4 record. The Leafs were trailing 5-1 at the time of the waffle toss.

His love affair will be from a distance, however, after being barred from the Air Canada Centre.

Further punishment could follow from a January court appearance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Italy. Protest

▶ Researchers and students offer books to police officers during a protest against the government-proposed education reforms senate, in Milan, yesterday.

ANTONIO CALANNI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students protest cuts

Students in cities across Italy are again taking to the streets to protest university budget cuts that are expected to be approved by parliament.

Breastfeed ban out

Woman was 'mostly shocked and felt a bit humiliated' after being asked to leave an exhibit room while breastfeeding in Edmonton art gallery

The Art Gallery of Alberta will no longer ban breastfeeding after an Edmonton mother complained that she was told to leave an exhibit room because food and drink weren't allowed around the artwork.

Jill Janicki said she was in the provincial gallery with another mother on Friday when her seven-month-old daughter Lauren got hungry. She moved to a set of benches in the middle of the room and began feeding her.

That's when Janicki said a security guard approached and told her she would have to stop and move into the hallway.

She and her husband, took to Facebook where they posted a letter of protest that they had sent to the executive director.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. woman admits to killing son, hiding body

Court Documents

- Lawson, 31, told investigators that in November 2009 she fed Jezaih the olive oil and vinegar because she was frustrated with his temper tantrums, according to Allen County court documents.

An U.S. woman told police investigators she fed her three-year-old son olive oil and vinegar until he stopped breathing and died, then wrapped his body in a blanket and hid it for more than a year, according to court documents.

Fort Wayne police arrested Latisha Ann Lawson, 31, this week after family members reported her and her two children missing. Officers found Lawson and her 10-year-old daughter living in a house that a church had provided for them in recent weeks.

They also found a young boy's remains inside a tote bag at the home, and a coroner yesterday ruled strangulation as the child's cause of death.

Police are awaiting DNA test results, but have said the remains are believed to be those of Lawson's son, Jezaih King.

Allen County coroner investigator Becky Stuttle said her office didn't try to determine when the boy died, but that the body was in a state of decomposition.

A judge scheduled a court hearing for next week after ruling Tuesday that there was probable cause for her arrest.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN looks at treatment of WikiLeaks suspect

Assange's view

- In an interview with MSNBC on yesterday, Julian Assange called Bradley Manning a political prisoner and said he believes the U.S. is trying to get the soldier to testify against him. He called on human-rights organizations to investigate.

The United Nations' top anti-torture envoy is looking into a complaint that the Army private suspected of giving classified documents to WikiLeaks has been mistreated in custody, a spokesperson said yesterday.

The office of Manfred Nowak, special rapporteur on torture in Geneva, received a complaint from one of Pfc. Bradley Manning's supporters alleging conditions in a Marine Corps brig in Quantico, Virginia, amount to torture, said spokesperson Xabier Celaya. Visitors say he spends at least 23 hours a day alone in a cell.

The UN could ask the United States to stop any violations it finds.

The Pentagon has denied mistreating Manning. A Marine Corps spokesman says the military is keeping Manning safe, secure and ready for trial.

Manning was charged in July with leaking classified material, including video posted by WikiLeaks of a 2007 U.S. Apache helicopter attack in Baghdad that killed a Reuters news photographer and his driver.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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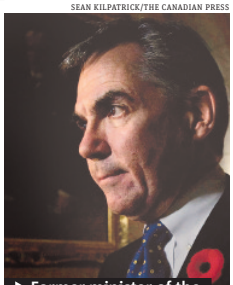
Canada's green reputation at stake: Minister

Ex-environment minister was poised to step in over oilsands: Cable Spoke with U.S. ambassador about plan

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Former minister of the environment Jim Prentice

A leaked U.S. government document says Canada's former environment minister was frustrated with his own government's response to international criticism over the oilsands.

And Jim Prentice was getting ready to step in to do something about it.

The diplomatic note, obtained by WikiLeaks and published by the Norwegian newspaper Aftenposten, was an accounting of a 2009 lunch that Prentice had with the U.S. ambassador to Canada.

David Jacobson had assumed his new post a month earlier and the introductory lunch was described as "engaging," with Prentice assuming an unrushed, focused and collegial tone.

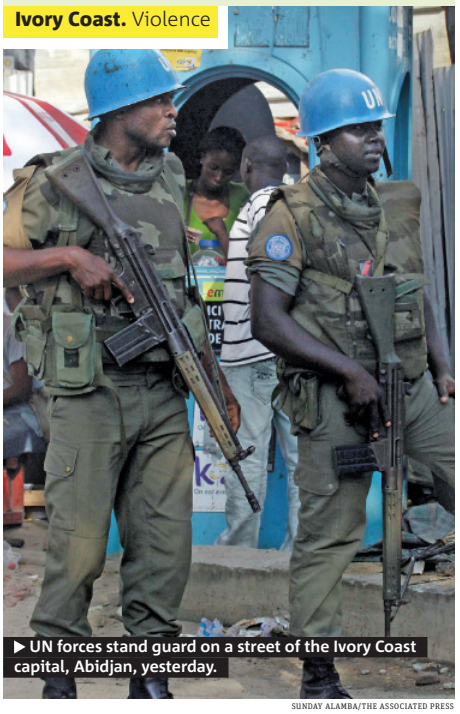
"Prentice appeared keen to forge a personal relationship with Ambassador Jacobson," the cable said, noting Prentice shared stories about his daughter, and life in Alberta.

But the cable also said Prentice confessed he was taken aback by the negative coverage Canada was receiving over the oil sands.

His concerns had been sparked by a trip to Norway where a public debate was going on over whether that country should invest in "dirty oil."

"Calling himself 'conservationist-minded,' Prentice said he would step in and regulate the sands if Canada's image in the world gets further tarnished by negative coverage," read the cable.

Ivory Coast. Violence



UN forces stand guard on a street of the Ivory Coast capital, Abidjan, yesterday.

SUNDAY ALAMBA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Civil war a 'real risk'

The UN chief has warned that Ivory Coast faces a risk of return to civil war, and that UN peacekeepers will face a critical situation in the coming days.

Google buys a piece of Big Apple

Google has bought a New York office building where more than 2,000 of its employees work.

The Internet search leader confirmed the purchase yesterday, three weeks after The New York Times reported Google Inc. would pay $1.8 billion for a 15-storey building that spans an entire city block.

Google Inc. didn't disclose how much it paid for the office. The company moved into the former Port Authority building in 2006.

It has become the second largest concentration of Google employees, ranking behind the company's Mountain View headquarters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

270K

With about 270,000 square metres, the office has more space than the Empire State building.

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U.S. military gays don't have to lie anymore

'I say to all Americans, gay or straight ... we will be honoured to welcome you into the ranks': Obama

Declaring that members of the U.S. military will no longer be asked to lie, U.S. President Barack Obama fulfilled a campaign promise yesterday and signed a landmark law repealing the ban on gay men and women serving openly in the armed services.

The signing ceremony was a breakthrough moment for the U.S. gay community, the military and for Obama himself.

The president vowed during his 2008 campaign to repeal the law and faced pressure from liberals, a significant base in his Democratic party, who complained he was not acting swiftly enough.

CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ Barack Obama

The new law is the second of three expected victories in what's turned out to be — for Obama — a surprisingly productive post-election Congress.

Weeks after his self-described "shellacking" in the Nov. 2 vote, he has won lopsided approval of a tax cut compromise with the opposition Republicans, and the Senate is poised to deliver his top foreign policy goal: Ratification of a new nuclear arms treaty with Russia.

The new law affecting the military ends the 17-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" policy that forced gays to hide their sexual orientation or face dismissal. Its repeal comes as American public opinion on such issues as gay marriage and gay rights in general has grown more tolerant.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fallen soldier returns

Was 154th Canadian killed Weather in Europe delayed repatriation

PETER REDMAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ The hearse carrying the casket of Cpl. Steve Martin drives past people paying their respects outside CFB Trenton, Ont., yesterday. Martin was from Saint-Cyrille-de-Wendover, about 115 kilometres northeast of Montreal.

The body of the latest Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan was returned home yesterday after bad weather delayed a repatriation ceremony earlier this week.

The military transport plane carrying Cpl. Steve Martin was originally scheduled to arrive at CFB Trenton on Tuesday, but the plane was grounded in Germany because of severe winter weather.

Martin, who would have turned 25 on Monday, was killed on Saturday by an improvised explosive device while he was on foot patrol.

His repatriation was the first to be attended by new Gov. Gen., David Johnston, who previously said with Martin's death he now feels the weight of his new responsibilities as commander-in-chief of the Canadian Forces.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay and members of Martin's family were also on the windswept tarmac as the flag-draped casket was escort by military pallbearers to a waiting hearse.

The hearse and vehicles carrying the families departed the eastern Ontario military base after the ceremony and the procession then made its way to Toronto — where the remains are taken for autopsies — along the route known as the Highway of Heroes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ONLINE DRINKING

Police end website binge

West Vancouver Police have asked Facebook to cork a page on its site encouraging binge drinking among teens.

Police say the page had posted drinking challenges urging youth to guzzle large quantities of booze in a short time, attempt to avoid vomiting and then put videos of those acts online.

Officers contacted about 10 local students who were participating on the global site after a concerned adult from the area notified them of its existence last week.

Const. Lisa Schmidtke says police talked with the teens and their parents about the dangers of excessive drinking.

The department also reported the page to Facebook, which altered the site to eliminate concerns, although Schmidtke says she'd ultimately like the page to be shut down altogether. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Charges as truck flunks sniff test

The 13 air fresheners in the cab of the semi truck may have been the giveaway.

A Surrey, B.C., man faces charges after officers with the Canada Border Services Agency found 37 kilograms of cocaine hidden in the cab of the truck about to cross the Canadian border.

The drugs were found a month ago at the Pacific Border Crossing, prompting the CBSA to call in the Mounties' federal drug enforcement agency to take over the investigation.

RCMP say drugs aren't normally hidden in the cab of a commercial vehicle because the acetone used to cut cocaine has a distinct smell. Ten of the 13 air fresheners found in the truck were pine scented. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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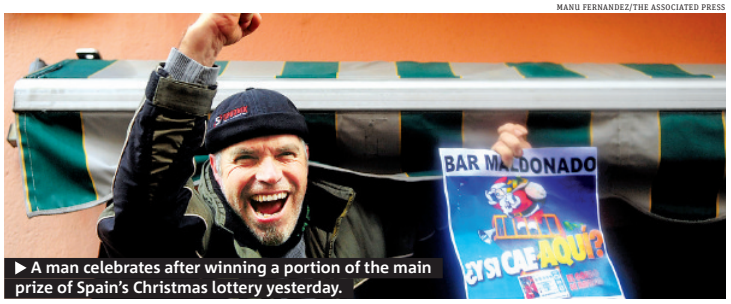
MANU FERNANDEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ A man celebrates after winning a portion of the main prize of Spain's Christmas lottery yesterday.

'The Fat One' brings Spain joy

◐ Thousands of tickets win money ◐ Lottery sales remain stable despite country's economic woes

Spain's beloved Christmas lottery sprinkled 2.3 billion euros ($3 billion) in holiday cheer across the country yesterday, winnings eagerly welcomed by a nation facing 20 per cent unemployment.

The lottery billed as the world's richest has no single jackpot but operates a complex share-the-wealth system in which thousands of five-digit numbers win at least something. It is known as "El Gordo" (The Fat One) and dates back to 1812. Tax-free winnings range from the face value of a 20 euro ticket to a top prize of 300,000 euros.

The sweepstakes informally ushers in the Christmas season. Many Spaniards spend the day glued to TV sets, radios and computers, waiting to see if they are among the lucky. People often team up to buy shares of tickets sold by bars, sports clubs and business offices.

In lottery-crazed Spain — there are easily a dozen others beside the Christmas one — sales of El Gordo tickets remained stable from last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ottawa allows more Agent Orange payouts

Lobbyists commend move but want government to also expand timeframe of exposure to toxic herbicide

A New Brunswick widow who lost her husband to cancer six years ago is praising a decision by the federal government that will allow more people to qualify for Agent Orange payments.

Bette Hudson, whose husband, Ralph, died of bone cancer after two decades in the military, said yesterday that Ottawa finally got it right in loosening the rules on who can get a $20,000 ex gratia payout.

Veterans Affair Minister Jean-Pierre Blackburn announced in Fredericton that the government is removing a controversial condition that required applicants to be alive on Feb. 6, 2006 — the date the federal Conservatives came to power.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Jean-Pierre Blackburn

"It makes me feel as if my husband is worthy," she said at the announcement, moments after Blackburn outlined the changes.

"We were left out of this from the beginning. Now I feel as if he was worth something and I'm happy because we have fought a hard fight."

Hudson, 72, is one of more than 100 spouses from CFB Gagetown in New Brunswick who had applied to receive the special tax-free payments, but were denied because they didn't meet the criteria.

She and other women in the group Widows on the Warpath have lobbied the federal government to change the payment rules, which they have said are unfair, exclusionary and politically motivated.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Costs rise after storm

Third storm this month to hit Atlantic Might be among the most costly disasters in N.B.'s history

The economic toll is mounting after the third Atlantic storm in a month crashed through seawalls, flooded wharfs and damaged homes yesterday.

Ernie MacGillivray, director of emergency services at New Brunswick's Emergency Measures Organization, said the total cost of the three floods — ranging from a deluge in southwestern New Brunswick to storm surges this week on the eastern coast — is difficult to estimate.

600 By late afternoon, the Emergency Measures Organization in New Brunswick said that they had received more than 600 reports of property damage.

"As a whole this could well be the second-largest event since 1973," MacGillivray said, referring to the massive flooding of the St. John River and its tributaries.

The flooding of the St. John River in 2008 ended up costing New Brunswick about $100 million for government disaster relief, private insurance and other costs to citizens, he said.

All across the province, there's also the cost of lost business days and damage not covered by insurance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Reuben Schwartz stands on the remains of his deck at his cottage on the Northumberland Strait in Brule, N.S., yesterday. Schwartz's cottage was filled with water as a storm surge washed away the beach.

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High household debt key risk to recovery: Report

Canada's economy to grow 2.3%, unemployment to remain at 7.9%: IMF

The risks to Canada's economic recovery are increasing and could curtail growth in the future, the International Monetary Fund warns in a new outlook for the country.

Overall, the fund's end-of-the-year report on Canada gives a generally positive assessment, especially in comparison to other countries.

But it cited several "key risks" that could restrain the recovery and growth in employment, including an overheated housing market, high household debt and the weak recovery in the U.S.

"It's important to remain vigilant to any risks that could emerge. ...we have confidence that the authorities are very much on the same page."
CHARLES KRAMER, IMF CANADIAN MISSION CHIEF

"Risks are elevated and tilted to the downside with high household debt levels the main domestic risk, and a weaker U.S. outlook the largest external risk," the report states.

In a conference call, IMF Canadian mission chief Charles Kramer said the good news is that an economic collapse in Canada is not the most likely scenario, and if a downturn were to occur, Ottawa and the Bank of Canada have room to respond.

He noted that, unlike other countries, the central bank's policy interest rate is at one per cent — not zero — so governor Mark Carney has room to cut.

And Ottawa's fiscal position is also far better than many other advanced countries, with relatively low net debt to gross domestic product.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft
+ 15.55 (13,380.70)	+ 0.32¢ (98.60¢ US)	+ 66¢ US ($90.48 US)	$4.152 (+ 9.3¢)

Gold contracts $1,387.40 (– $1.40)

Canadian firms set for 2011 buying spree: Report

The high loonie, increasing demand for goods in Asia and companies looking to spend their idle cash will lead to more mergers and takeovers involving Canadian businesses next year after a slight dip in 2010, says business consultants and auditing firm KPMG.

KPMG says companies will be looking to emerging markets as a way to expand their boundaries and invest money sitting in bank accounts. Adding the high dollar and favourable exchange rates to the mix makes it more affordable for Canadian companies to buy foreign ones, KPMG said.

"I think there's going to be opportunities in eastern Europe and the rest of Europe for Canadian companies ... with huge growth in those emerging economies like China and India," Peter Hatges, president of KPMG, added. Increasing buyer confidence boosts company values to levels that both buyers and sellers think are reasonable, creating a better breeding ground for deals in 2011, Hatges said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Magnate. Corporate compromise

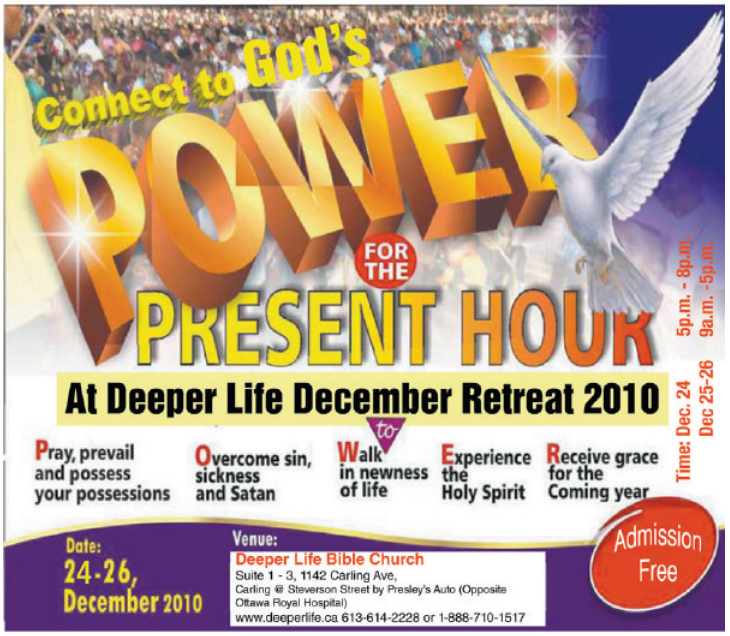
▶ Magna's Frank Stronach speaks in Markham, Ont., in this May photo.

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Stronach settles with shareholders

The battle between Magna International founder Frank Stronach and minority shareholders of MI Developments Inc. has ended in a truce that will give him ownership of several racetracks in exchange for control of the company, according to a report.

6.8B **The biggest single Canadian deal this year was the $6.8-billion US acquisition of Red Back Mining by Kinross Gold Corp.**



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WHAT'S A TRADITION WITHOUT TRADITION?

He says ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE

It's that special time of year when columnists write irritating clichés like "it's that special time of year."

I'm contributing to the ritual this year because it's become clear I don't have enough annual traditions.

I've fought against repeating myself my whole life: When the bartender knows what I want, it's time for a new drink. When I'm starting to enjoy a job, it's time to move. When it seems I've settled on a toothpaste, it's time to brush around. (Keep it under your cap, but Crest and Colgate don't even know about each other.)

This approach gives me the benefit of feeling like my life is tumultuous even when it's stagnant — the life equivalent of splashing in the bathtub.

I do have a few traditions, but nothing reassuring: I bang my hip on the corner of the kitchen table with the precision and regularity of the Queen's Guard. I watch the Boston Bruins lose in the playoffs, like clockwork, every spring. And every time I'm in my hometown my best friend and I go to a major fast food chain and order the "special" burger of the moment. I eat it first and describe in detail just how horrible it is, then he eats it and agrees.

"This approach gives me the benefit of feeling like my life is tumultuous even when it's stagnant ..."

You see why I would want some more heartwarming (not heart-burning) traditions.

My Christmases are not consistent, except that they keep getting worse. This year it's my only day off, with five days of work on one side and six on the other. Ho ho ho.

And I grew up with all the traditions: Warm house; stockings; presents; food; family; mother yelling, "Why can't we have a nice Christmas?!" and running off to cry. (That happened twice, which makes it tradition.)

I need some of that again. So here are a few Yuletide rituals I'm considering:

• Join the Christians who complain that the words "Happy Holidays" are an assault on their faith, rather than an attempt to include other faiths. I'm not Christian, but it's fun to be the underdog, especially when you number two billion.

• Recreate the big family Christmas. Set up a huge table with 12 place settings, all the trimmings, decorations, and a children's table off to the side. Then sit at it alone in contemplative silence.

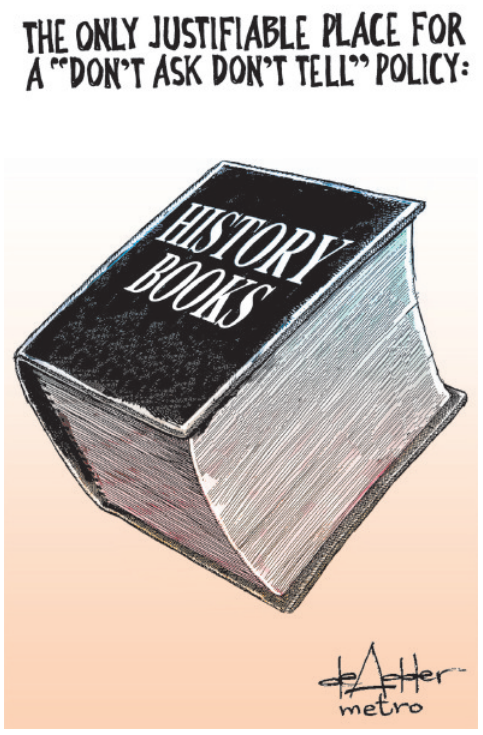
• End the annual Christmas column with irritating clichés like, "Best of the season to you and yours" and "Merry Christmas."

Oh, and best of the season to you and yours. Merry Christmas!

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER



Certainly not child's play

Worth mentioning

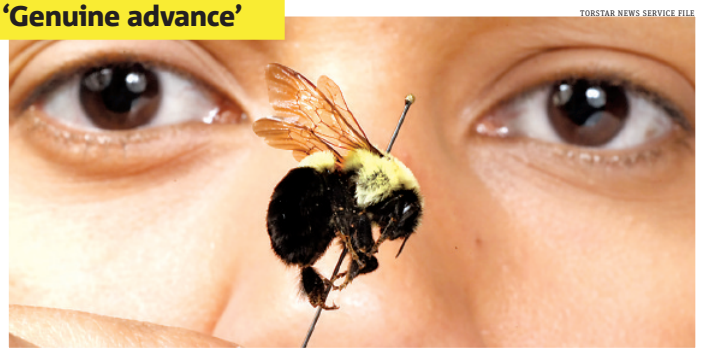
It came with wobbly writing and hand-drawn diagrams, but an elementary school science project has made it into a peer-reviewed journal from Britain's prestigious Royal Society.

Biology Letters published a report yesterday conducted and written by a group of eight- to 10-year-olds from an English elementary school investigating the way bumblebees see colours and patterns.

The scientific organization said the children reported findings that were a "genuine advance" in the field of insect colour and pattern vision.

'Genuine advance'

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE



Working with a neuroscientist from University College London, the children carefully documented their methodology and discussed the data they collected.

The group trained bees to go to targets of different colours by giving them a sugar reward, and reported that the insects are able to learn and remember cues based on colour and pattern. Scientists who commented on the kids' report in the journal say although the experiments were modest and lacked statistical analyses, they were cleverly and correctly designed and hold their own compared to those conducted by highly trained specialists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What was your favourite memory of 2010?

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Metro Minute at Gatineau Park

Access the cross-country ski trails at Gatineau Park — for free!

As a pilot project for the 2010-11 winter season, 75 Gatineau Park cross-country ski passes are now part of the Ottawa Public Library's collection as a result of a new partnership between OPL and the National Capital Commission.

The pass, which is borrowed from the library like any other circulating item, provides free access to the trails for an adult or a teen.

The loan period of the pass — a laminated card the size of a bus pass — is one week and can be used multiple times during that period.

TRACEY TONG

MARC DESROSIERS/FOR METRO

▶ Borrow a cross-country ski pass from the Ottawa Public Library. The person using the pass must have it with them at all times while using the trails.

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5 YEARS / 160,000 KM* · POWERTRAIN COMPONENT LIMITED WARRANTY · ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE · COURTESY TRANSPORTATION

*WHICHEVER COMES FIRST. EXCLUDES MEDIUM-DUTY TRUCKS. SEE DEALER FOR LIMITED WARRANTY DETAILS.

Redeem your GM Card earnings today.†

VEHICLE PRICING IS NOW EASIER TO UNDERSTAND BECAUSE ALL OUR PRICES INCLUDE FREIGHT, PDI AND MANDATORY GOVERNMENT LEVIES.
Prices do not include applicable taxes and PPSA. Consumers may be required to pay up to $799 for Dealer fees.***

CHEVROLET

GM

For the latest information, visit us at chevrolet.ca, drop by your local Chevrolet Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. ♦$10,000/$1,000/$1,000/$1,000 manufacturer to dealer delivery credit, which includes maximum Holiday Bonus ($1,500/$1,000/$1,000) available on 2010 Chevrolet Silverado 1500/2011 Chevrolet Malibu/2011 Chevrolet Equinox (tax exclusive) for retail customers only reflected in offers in this advertisement. Other cash credits, including Holiday Bonus, available on most models $1,500/$1,000 Holiday Bonus available on 2010/2011 models. Offers valid to January 17, 2011. Dealer order (201 1MY only) or trade may be required. Limited quantities of certain 2010 models. GMCL may modify or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. See dealer for details. *Offer applies to the purchase of 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡0% for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡2.9% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡3.9% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡4.9% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡2% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡3% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡4% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡5% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡6% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡6.9% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡7.9% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡8.9% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡9.9% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡10.9% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡11.9% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡12.9% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡13.9% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡14.9% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡15.9% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡16.9% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡17.9% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡18.9% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡19.9% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡20% for 72 months on 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. ‡2.9% purchase financing offered by GMCL for 48 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. GMC by Ally Credit. Rates from other lenders will vary. Example: $10,000 at 0%/2.9% APR, monthly payment is $208. $38/220.90 for 48 months. Cost of borrowing is $10,603.20. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. ♦Variable rate financing for 84 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA (APR applies to variable rate financing only). Example: $10,000 at 3% for 84 months, the monthly payment is $131.21. Cost of borrowing is $1,098.82. Total obligation is $11,098.82. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Variable rate financing offered by GMCL for 84 months on 2011 Chevrolet Malibu LS 1FL (excluding 1FL69) and 2011 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD 1YA. Rates from other lenders will vary. Variable rate financing is not available on current GM Owner Loyalty Bonus. Example: $10,000 at 3% for 84 months, the monthly payment is $131.21. Cost of borrowing is $1,098.82. Total obligation is $11,098.82. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. ♠Customers eligible for a GM Owner Loyalty Bonus will receive either a $1,500 or $1,000 manufacturer to consumer incentive (tax inclusive). Example: $10,000 purchase price, after tax price is $11,200 ($10,000 plus $1,200 applicable taxes). After applying $1,500/$1,000 credit, after tax price is $9,700/$10,200. $131.327.50/$885 reduced purchase price plus $172.50/$115 applicable taxes), with the $1,500/$1,000 credit being the $1,327.50/$885 reduction from the purchase price and the $172.50/$115 reduction in taxes which would have otherwise been payable on the full purchase price $1,200 credit available to current owners of a Pontiac/Saturn/Saab/HUMMER/Oldsmobile/Isuzu/Kuora/Passport vehicles. $1,000 credit available to current owners of a Chevrolet/GMC/Buick/Cadillac vehicle. Customer's GM vehicle must be registered and insured (in Canada) in their name for the previous consecutive six months. GM Owner Loyalty Bonus may be applied towards the purchase/finance/lease of an eligible new 2009/2010/2011 Model Year Chevrolet/GMC/Buick/Cadillac vehicle, delivered between July 1, 2010 – December 30, 2010, Ineligible vehicles: Chevrolet Aveo, Cobalt, Cruze, all Pontiac, Saturn, Saab, and HUMMER vehicles, and medium duty trucks. Offer is transferable to a family member living within the same household (proof of address required). As part of the transaction, dealer may request documentation and contact GM to verify eligibility. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives, including the First to Own, Graduate, Conquest, Commercial Fleet, Fleet, Delivery Allowance, Lease Conquest, Lease Loyalty, Lease Non-GM Conquest, Lease Non-GM Loyalty, Lease Non-GM Trade-In, Lease Trade-In, Lease Trade-In Conquest, Lease Trade-In Loyalty, Lease Trade-In Non-GM Conquest, Lease Trade-In Non-GM Loyalty, Lease Trade-In Non-GM Trade-In, Lease Trade-In Trade-In, Lease Trade-In Trade-In Conquest, Lease Trade-In Trade-In Loyalty, Lease Trade-In Trade-In Non-GM Conquest, Lease Trade-In Trade-In Non-GM Loyalty, Lease Trade-In Trade-In Non-GM Trade-In, Lease Trade-In Trade-In Trade-In, Lease Trade-In Trade-In Trade-In Conquest, Lease Trade-In Trade-In Trade-In Loyalty, Lease Trade-In Trade-In Trade-In Non-GM Conquest, Lease Trade-In Trade-In Trade-In Non-GM Loyalty, Lease Trade-In Trade-In Trade-In Non-GM Trade-In, Lease Trade-In Trade-In Trade-In Trade-In, Lease Trade-In 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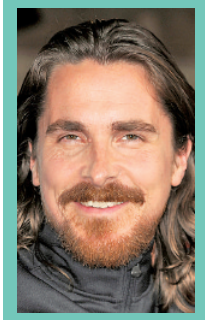
2 scene

Scene in brief



Christian Bale will star in Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yimou's new project about 13 young prostitutes who help save compatriots from Japanese troops rampaging Nanjing, the latest film exploring a World War II-era atrocity that stirs nationalism in China.

Bale, currently co-starring in the boxing drama The Fighter, will portray an American priest in the movie.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ScanLife

CBS to bring 3 rookie series aboard for midseason; Blue Bloods, Rules get new slots

DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The Canadian Tenors, from left, Fraser Walters, Clifton Murray, Victor Micallef and Remigio Pereira. With help from Oprah Winfrey, success-crammed 2010 was a 'Perfect Gift' for the popera quartet.

The ultimate bromance

By late 2009 the Canadian Tenors had built a solid homegrown following
Group's popularity skyrocketed after they appeared on the Oprah show

A year after releasing their first hit album, the Canadian Tenors are delivering The Perfect Gift, a compilation of traditional and contemporary holiday music.

"You have the classics like O Holy Night and Silent Night, but there are songs that are not necessarily Christmas-specific," explained tenor Victor Micallef. "Some great producers worked on that, as well," added band mate Clifton Murray. Hallelujah was (produced by) Bob Ezrin, who worked on The Wall.

That's as in Pink Floyd's The Wall — just one of many aspects of The Tenors that may surprise. The quartet's clean-cut, all-North American looks scream "pre-fab," and, indeed, the band was the brainchild of Canadian composer Jill Ann Siemens, who first started work on the project some 10 years ago. The current configuration of the group is Victor Micallef, Clifton Murray, Remigio Pereira and Fraser Walters.

"We started grassroots and just slowly built up. We cut our teeth on the road doing that."
CANADIAN TENOR REMIGIO PEREIRA

The recent holiday album was released in October, months after the group's debut album The Canadian Tenors ranked at the top of Billboard's Classical Albums chart.

Before making inroads in the U.S., Pereira said, the group did 12 shows in 12 small towns in western Saskatchewan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joined at the hip

The Canadian Tenors spend more time together on the road than they do with their families these days.

- **The four** wrapped up their 2010 tour schedule Tuesday night in Fort Worth, Texas.
- **They plan** to head back north, to the singers' respective homes for the holidays.

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TV's downfall in 2011?

Recent launch of Google TV in the U.S. allows consumers to watch web content on the big screen

As television executives try to predict how the industry will evolve in 2011 as more viewers watch shows online, they're cognizant — and perhaps a little worried — about the painful lessons learned from the music industry's digital revolution.

They know all too well that once consumers can access free content on their own terms, it's awfully difficult to return to the status quo.

Few think 2011 will be the year Canadians cancel their cable subscriptions en masse and start watching TV exclusively through the Internet, but it may mark the start of that seemingly inevitable future.

"We're not jumping off our buildings worried about it ... but I don't believe any of us are naive enough to believe that we alone can halt the inevitable progress of technology and the merging of multiple screens," said Alon Marcovici, CTV's executive vice president of digital media.

"The world moves so fast and no one can forsee what's coming."
ALON MARCOVICI, CTV EXECUTIVE

"We have to be in the right spot to monetize that or create a long-term monetization plan that isn't just relegating ourselves to the trash heap of (industries killed by) disruptive media, like classifieds in the newspapers, or the music industry.

"That's what we're all collectively as an industry trying to avoid being."

These days, Canadian networks post virtually their entire prime-time lineups online for free. Apple's iTunes store also sells single episodes of shows, typically $3.49 for the most popular titles.

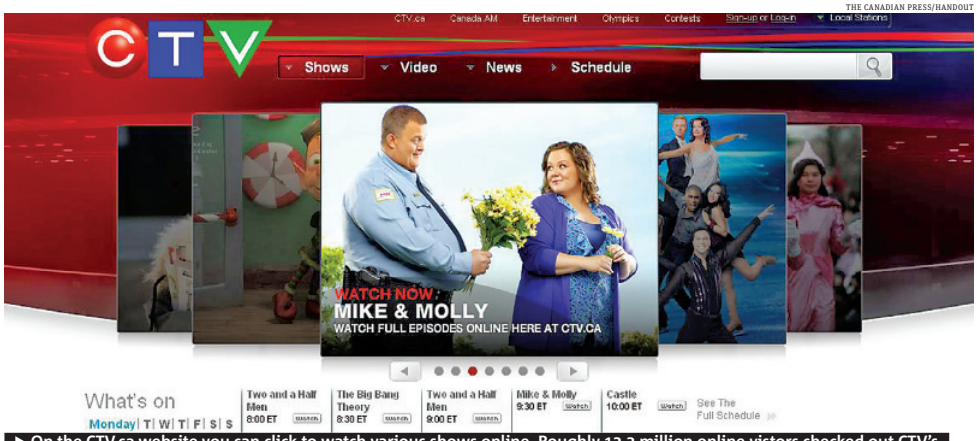
The wealth of content, along with a spate of new products that make it easy to watch web content on a TV, have led to speculation that many frugal and tech-savvy viewers will soon start calling their ISP their TV provider.

That prospect has been hyped in the United States as a burgeoning trend that threatens to blow up business models — although there are many skeptics within the industry.

ESPN released a report last week suggesting only 0.11 per cent of American TV subscribers have cut their service in the last three months, and theorized that they cancelled because of recession-related reasons, not because of their streaming habits.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT



▶ On the CTV.ca website you can click to watch various shows online. Roughly 12.3 million online vistors checked out CTV's site during the 2010 Vancouver Olympics and viewed 28.5 million videos.

Going online

CTV embraced the concept of web-viewing in 2010 with Olympics coverage.

- The network had 14 different online channels streaming live events.

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The highs and lows of Hollywood 2010

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METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

It's been an odd year, 2010, with some surprise box office hits (Hey there, Alice in Wonderland) and high-profile misses (Burlesque, I'm looking at you) mixed in with the usual Twilight and Harry Potter cash cows. With the holidays — and awards season — upon us, we try to make sense of it all by tallying up the best and worst films of 2010.

Up and down

Inception

A triumph of storytelling, visuals and emotion, Christopher Nolan's dreamscape is an all-around winner.

Sex and the City 2

It's rare for a movie to be this aggressively bad, especially when it's part of a beloved, successful TV and film franchise. Whether it was the worse-than-usual puns, the recession or the cultural tone-deafness, this was a tour de force of awfulness.

Ups

The Social Network

As timely as it is entertaining, David Fincher's Facebook movie gets great performances from its young cast, but it's Aaron Sorkin's screenplay that is the real star here.

Never Let Me Go

A subtle, moving adaptation of Kazuo Ishiguro's heartbreaking novel, the film proved that Carey Mulligan's Oscar nomination last year wasn't a fluke.

Black Swan

Though it's been jokingly referred to as Showgirls for the art-house set, Darren Aronofsky's mind-bending look inside the world of professional ballet will leave you blinking at the screen.

The Ghost Writer

Though likely not Tony Blair's favourite film of the year, Roman Polanski's taut thriller about a memoir-writing former Prime Minister with something to hide was chilling and near-perfect.

Toy Story 3

Proving that franchises don't have to decline in quality as they go on — I'm looking at you, Shrek — this wasn't just a great animated film, it was a great film.

Blue Valentine

Absolutely devastating portrayal of a marriage imploding, this too-real drama starring Ryan Gosling and Michelle Williams will haunt you.

Scott Pilgrim vs. The World

Edgar Wright's comic adaptation was possibly the most entertaining and original film of the year. Practically an anthem for the video game generation.

The Kids Are All Right

Anchored by a pair of hilariously flawed performances by Annette Bening and Julianne Moore as lesbian parents, this film's portrait of a modern family hit all the right notes.

Downs

Eat Pray Love

Beautiful to look at, as long as you don't listen to Julia Roberts' character's lamentations about being spiritually unfulfilled. It's two and a half hours of yuppie faux-spirituality, objectifying native cultures and rampant self-absorption.

For Colored Girls

Tyler Perry's clumsy adaptation — and even clumsier direction — left his stellar cast of actresses twisting in the wind.

Robin Hood

Ridley Scott's bloated, plodding retelling of the origins of Sherwood Forest's most famous resident, played by a scowling, grumbly Russell Crowe, was almost as boring as it was needlessly mean to the French.

Valentine's Day

A rom-com omnibus packed with pretty faces in various states of romantic distress, this overstuffed confection is about as aggressively sweet as they come. But in case you didn't get enough, the folks behind it have New Years Eve on tap next.

Clash of the Titans

This remake's worst crime was tossing the original's bright colours and campiness for a dour, gray slog through Ancient Greece, all led by a smile-averse Sam Worthington.

The Back-Up Plan

Jennifer Lopez's latest bid at box office domination came off instead like a how-to guide for getting the romantic comedy genre wrong.

Dinner for Schmucks

It seems impossible for a movie starring Steve Carell and Paul Rudd — and featuring a Zach Galifianakis cameo — to be so aggressively unfunny, but Dinner for Schmucks achieves the impossible.

Jonah Hex

Somehow, Josh Brolin managed to appear in the best and worst westerns this year, getting top billing in both the superb True Grit and this turkey.

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Stereos
Album: Uncontrollable
Label: Universal
●½
Stereos is Canadian kiddy rock, music planned for young girls not long weaned off the Doodlebops. These season-one Disband stars sing a song called Girls in the Club for tweens still several years away from ever realistically gaining entrance to one. It's boy band music wrapped in a punk veneer. Track two is a particularly aggravating song horribly misnamed Attitude. **Outstanding track:** Yeah Yeah Yeah
● GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM

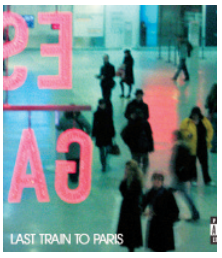
Keyshia Cole
Album: Calling all Hearts
Label: Universal
●●●

Keyshia Cole's latest does away with some of the more upbeat pop found on her 2008 disc, A Different Me, instead returning to the slow burning soul jams found on her earlier albums. The disc is fairly consistent — it's loaded with big, soaring hooks and songs about her family. However, while the record starts strong too many slow songs drag the record down.
Outstanding track: I Ain't Thru ● BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI

Keri Hilson
Album: No Boys Allowed
Label: Universal
●●●
Despite the title of Keri Hilson's latest disc, the record is filled with collaborations from the boys including Timbaland, Kanye and Chris Brown. Hilson, however, should have stuck to using her own voice. It sometimes feels like the accomplished songwriter, who only contributed her writing skills to five of 11 songs, has gone missing. The Rihanna-like soul pop is fun but that's all it is. **Outstanding track:** Buyou
● BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI

Ghostface Killah
Album: Apollo Kids
Label: Def Jam
●●●●½
After subjecting us to a deadpan R&B experiment a year ago, Ghostface gets back on track with his ninth album. Even without RZA behind the boards, Apollo Kids manages to evoke Wu-Tang's classic era. Ghost's raucous street-smart narratives are as inspired as ever over an assortment of dusty soul samples. He still manages to outdo his contemporaries with a nostalgia trip that's as raw and poised as anything he's done. **Outstanding track:** Troublemakers
● CAM LINDSAY

Jamie Foxx
Album: Best Night of My Life
Label: Sony
●●½
Jamie Foxx has discovered that "martini" rhymes with "bikini" which is about as deep as it gets on the latest from the Oscar-winning movie star with the silken voice. This is Hollywood hip hop at its most familiar. It gets a tad tedious listening to Foxx tell us over and over again what a great guy he is ... as he does with the help of Justin Timberlake on the chart-targeted track, Winner (and several other tracks here). Okay, Jamie, we get the message.
Outstanding track: Winner
● GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM



Diddy-Dirty Money
Album: Last Train To Paris
Label: Bad Boy
●●●
"This is a brand new sound. This will change your life." For Diddy, this promise is at least half true. Last Train To Paris sees this long gestating concept album come to life through his new group featuring singers Dawn Richards and Kaleena Harper. With gaudy production and a heavy guest list, Diddy's "electro-hip-hop-soul-funk" vision is ambitious, but derails when Diddy isn't in full control. Last Train To Paris won't change your life, but at least it's a fun ride. **Outstanding track:** Shades ● CAM LINDSAY

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10 Overlooked films 2010

Don't miss these hidden gems that may have escaped you first time round

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

According to movieweb.com, 648 movies were released in 2010. Here are some of 2010's releases you may have missed but are worth a look.

▶ Michael Cera stars in Scott Pilgrim vs. The World.

Scott Pilgrim vs. The World

Scott Pilgrim vs. The World stars Michael Cera as a 22-year-old Torontonian who must defeat his girlfriend's Seven Evil Exes if he wants to be with her. It's a wild ride that nails the pop culture zeitgeist but also tells a universal human story.

Splice

In Splice a creature goes from newborn to troubled teen in just a matter of weeks. Starring Sarah Polley and Adrien Brody, it's giddy good fun; the rare sci fi flick that revels in its b-movie roots while also offering up something to think about.

Harry Brown

Michael Caine has rarely been better than he is in Harry Brown, a gritty Teabag Western about an old man in the Elephant and Castle section of London who strikes back after a gang kills his best mate.

Cyrus

Cyrus is an odd movie. It's about a lonely guy, the woman of his dreams ... and her quirky son played by Jonah Hill. Not quite a comedy, not quite a drama, it falls somewhere in between. Just like real life.

Flipped

Rob Reiner's Flipped is coming-of-age Rashômon filtered through Leave it to Beaver with a dash of The Wonder Years thrown in for good measure. In other words, it's a touching, but idiosyncratic film about growing up.

Get Low

Get Low, the unlikely story of a man arranging his own funeral, took on three hankie status as Robert Duvall played an old man looking back on his wasted life.

The Disappearance of Alice Creed

The kidnapping drama The Disappearance of Alice Creed features three characters, three, maybe four sets and one hundred minutes of unrelenting tension. It's a nasty little piece of work, remorselessly bleak but carefully crafted enough to be intriguing.

Winter's Bone

Winter's Bone should be seen not only for its uncompromising story of an Ozark girl who will do anything to keep her family together, but also for the breakout performance of its star Jennifer Lawrence.

Defendor

In Defendor Woody Harrelson plays a man whose rich inner life spills out into his real life. By day he's dead-end-job-Arthur but at night he's superhero Defendor. Gritty and funny, Harrelson breathes life into a role that could easily have fallen into cliché.

Marwencol

Marwencol, a documentary about a man with a severe brain injury who creates his own world as therapy is one of the funniest, most touching and inspirational films of the year.

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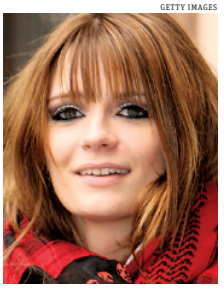
Feet

When dancing, "it's better to wear a higher heel versus a stiletto for reduced stress on the heel, ankle and the front of the foot," says Rock G. Positano, director of the foot and ankle service at Hospital for Special Surgery in New York.

GETTY IMAGES



Hair extensions

Enjoy them, just not every day for years, which "can cause considerable damage," says trichologist Philip Kingsley.

"Damage can include severe hair breakage and bald patches."

SKIN

Glowing skin

"UV tanning, especially before the age of 30, can increase the risk of melanoma by 75 per cent," says Sinead Norenius, founder of skincare line Beautisol. She also says to be aware of UV rays, found to break down the DNA in your skin and cause premature ageing.

Solution: Apply fake tan instead and you will avoid premature wrinkles and skin damage. Using gloves and practising first will stop you from ending up with the "tangoed" or bright orange effect.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ They look good now but let's hope they're not wearing extensions.

The dark side of looking good

BEDTIME BEAUTY

Makeup

It's 4 a.m. and you've tumbled out of a taxi and into your bed — makeup on and fully clothed. "By not sticking to your nightly beauty routine you could be causing havoc to your skin and teeth," explains Sinead Norenius.

Forgetting to take your makeup off can lead to clogged pores and turn your skin into a breeding ground for bacteria.

Nighttime is when the skin repairs itself from free radicals and pollution that builds up during the day and heavy makeup makes it more difficult for your skin to work.

Teeth: Going to bed without brushing your teeth could lead to plaque build up and bad breath.

Solution: Leave a stash of makeup wipes by your bed.

ROMINA McGUINNESS

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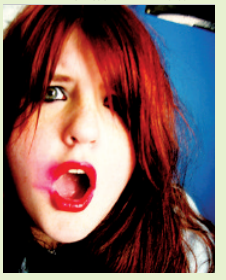

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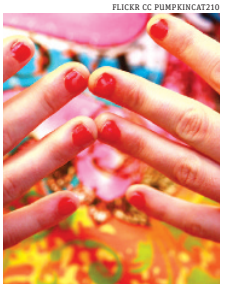

Nails

Think twice before gluing on fake nails this NYE. "Stick-on nails won't be secure," says Thea Green, founder of salon Nails Inc. They could also cause chemical damage to the nail bed or suffocate or tear off your real nail. Get a manicure.

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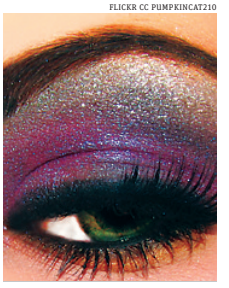

Eyes

Lash extensions are glued to individual lashes at the root of the lash and are applied on the upper eyelid using pointed tweezers and strong adhesive. Removing lashes could remove natural ones. Invest in good mascara and eyelash curlers.

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Gaga stalker makes it backstage

24-year-old woman reportedly already known to Gaga's team

Lady Gaga got quite a scare in London when a stalker reportedly got backstage and nearly made it to the singer, according to Hollyscoop.

"Gaga was understandably shaken by the incident but was a consummate professional and continued as per normal, putting on a dazzling show," a source says of her show at the 02 arena.

The unidentified 24-year-old apparently made a fake backstage pass to get past security and was found heading for Gaga's dressing room.

She was questioned and released.

METRO

▶ Lady Gaga

Russell, Katy have ways to keep the magic alive

Katy Perry says she and Russell Brand are finding that the secret to keeping a happy marriage between two working celebrities is being strict about schedules — and adventurous in the bedroom.

"We're both busy, but this is a huge part of my life. I call the shots on my schedule," she tells Grazia magazine.

"There are weekends for Russ and weekends for me and my friends. Neither of us ever wants to lose ourself or the other in fame."

As for how they spend those weekends? "I have secrets and magic tricks, of course. I can't share them because then you'd all know," she says. "But let's just say I'm not shy."

METRO

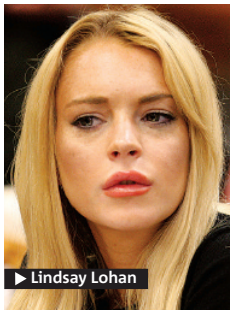
Celebrity tweets

Joel McHale [@joelmchale] My 2yr old keeps declaring w/great merriment "Happy Stupid, Happy stupid!!!". I think we'll start celebrating that holiday as well.

Ashley Tisdale [@ashleytisdale] Busy and crazy day today..... I'm officially on my Christmas break! Now in bed watching house hunters

Andy Richter [@Richter_Andy] At son's Episcopal school Christmas service. Ending's always the same; baby Jesus wins.

Aziz Ansari [@aziz ansari] Damn. Forgot to hire babies off Craigslist to pose as my fake children in my Christmas card again this year.



▶ Lindsay Lohan

Clinic worker fired for discussing Lohan flap

A worker at the Betty Ford Center is speaking out after being dismissed following an incident with Lindsay Lohan.

Dawn Holland tells TMZ Lohan was drunk and violent returning to her sober-living facility after curfew one night, while Lohan claims she was sober and Holland was abusive to her.

While an investigation is underway, Holland was fired from the rehab clinic for violating a confidentiality agreement when she spoke with TMZ.

"The story was already way out there in the open before I spoke," Holland says.

METRO

Zac dealing with breakup

While dealing with his split from Vanessa Hudgens, Zac Efron has reportedly been "leaning" on his The Lucky Ones co-star Taylor Schilling while they film in Louisiana, according to E! News.

"They joke around, eat together sometimes, run lines," says an on-set source. "Nothing out of the ordinary." Others speculate there's more going on between the two.

Meanwhile, another source suggests Efron's recently-single pal and co-star Kellan Lutz may be partially to blame for the split, as Efron recently fell in with Lutz's group of friends.

"They are a rowdy bunch, and I think that's influenced him to want to be free," the source says.

METRO

Scarlett-Ryan split not much of a secret

While the split between Ryan Reynolds and Scarlett Johansson may have come as a shock to many, Reynolds reportedly wasn't shy about discussing his marital woes while on the set of his next big film, The Green Lantern, according to a report in Us Weekly.

Reynolds was "open on set that he and Scarlett were having problems" and "would say that she treated him badly," a source tells the magazine. "It never seemed like she made him a priority."

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News worth sharing.

Thank God that one's over

We polled readers from Canada to Italy to find out which trends you never want to see again in 2011 Here are the results

As the year — and technically an entire decade depending on which math you use — draws to a close, it's only natural to reflect on the past. On the fashion front, 2010 presented highs and lows.

You loved fashion's return to wearable clothes such as the Céline-fueled minimalist trend. But the invasion of jeggings? Not so much.

We polled readers in nine countries where we are published, to find out which trends you'd love to bury for good in the new year.

METRO WORLD NEWS

"I'm tired of heels so high and over-embellished that they should only be worn by drag queens."
A METRO READER

Ridiculously tall platforms heels

They may look great on the runway, in a music video or on a street style blog, but they're difficult to walk in and often hurt. Maybe that's why über tall shoes are overwhelmingly the least popular trend among Metro readers — except the Italian ones.

82% of our readers in Italy love sky-high heels.

Trucker hats

Ages ago, Pharrell Williams made them cool. Then, Ashton Kutcher made them popular. Now, they're the accessory of choice for cheeseballs everywhere —still. .

Goth style

Times are dark enough. Why dress that way too? Based on our survey results, you're ready to kill the goth look.

82% AND **80%** OF OUR CANADIAN AND U.S. READERS DEPLORE HAREM PANTS

Harem pants

Fashionistas associate dhoti trousers with Givenchy couture. But most people just think of Hammer Time. Americans and Canadians have the least tolerance for drop crotch pants.

Crocs

Let's face it. The rainbow coloured rubber clogs only *really* make sense on very small children. The Dutch, surprisingly, hate them the most.

69% of our Dutch readers would banish Crocs from the earth

46% OF OUR HUNGARIAN READERS THINK BALLET SLIPPER FLATS ARE TOTALLY LAST YEAR

Ballet slipper flats

A timeless classic or over-exposed bore? If you ask our Hungarian and Danish readers, the comfy shoes are the latter.

44% OF OUR U.S. READERS THINK UGGS ARE VILE

Ugg boots

They bother us for a number of reasons. At the top of our list: the irritating sliding noise they make when you walk around in them.

Leggings, weggings and jeggings

The knit, wet look and denim variety drive our French and Hungarian readers batty.

Honourable mentions: 1. Jeans with bling 2. Ed Hardy "jerk shirts" 3. Sex and the City

3 life

You loved

MAD MEN STYLE

Red-carpet-friendly Badgley Mischka taps Rumer Willis as new ad model

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The future's looking clear

Get a handle on your skin woes by adding these key ingredients to your daily routine Dr. Doris Day and Dr. Fredric Brandt explain how

KENYA HUNT
WWW.METRO.LU
METRO WORLD NEWS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ 'Sugar has lots of damaging effects on the skin,' says Dr. Fredric Brandt.

Plant stem cells

Of all of the latest innovations in skin care, plant stem cell technology (when science attempts to recreate the regenerative process of leafy things), seems to be one of the biggest game-changers.

"We're loving some of the new stem-cell extracts," admits Dr. Fredric Brandt, who, in addition to his eponymous skincare line, is most famous for treating the famous faces of celebrities such as Madonna and Marc Jacobs.

He particularly likes apple stem cells for their ability to reduce the appearance of pores and smooth out wrinkles and grape stem cells for the way they boost hydration.

Peptides and Retinol

Dermatologists love peptides because they speed up cell turnover and smooth out lines. Meanwhile, retinol-based products help keep your skin looking healthy and supple during winter's skin-ruining weather.

"Retinol helps boost collagen production," says New York-based dermatologist Dr. Doris Day. She recommends the peptides- and retinols-packed Olay Pro-X line, which helps the skin hold in water and look younger.

Green tea and goji berries

Unless it's an ingredient in a facial scrub, you can safely assume that sugar will make your skin look worse — no matter how happy it makes you feel to eat it.

"Sugar has lots of damaging effects," Dr. Brandt says. He says sweets can cause glycation.

When sugar molecules break down collagen that leads to wrinkles, saggy skin and accelerated UV damage.

Replace the 4 p.m. candy run with green tea, which is high in antioxidants and high in skin-calming properties.

▶ Pores No More Mattifying Lotion and Time Arrest Crème de Luxe, drbrandtskincare.com

Modern & moody

THE KIT

Hedonists rejoice in this lineup of sultry scents for the sophisticated hippy-at-heart.

Prada Infusion d'Iris

A creamy floral with peppery galbanum and warm cedar. Eau de toilette, $80

Crabtree & Evelyn Iris

Orris, iris's precious root, is topped by lively bergamot and cassis, and grounded by musk and vetiver. Eau de toilette, $45

Givenchy Play for Her

A delicate veil of opposites: peppercorn with peach; sweet tiare flower with sandalwood and musk. Eau de parfum, $79

Givenchy Play for Her Intense

Play gets serious with rich accents of amyris wood, sandalwood and patchouli.

Eau de parfum, $85

Estée Lauder Sensuous Noir

A woody floral with benzoin and black pepper, rose and lily. Eau de parfum, $70

THE KIT is Canada's new digital beauty magazine, offering the best in beauty— inside and out! Subscribe for FREE at thekit.ca.

Look luxe in a tux

Holiday parties are the best excuse going to wear frilly clothes, but after a while they can seem a little fussy. The wardrobe antidote is a sleek, modern, fitted tuxedo.

The man-tailored suit - usually a jacket with lapel and trousers with a tonal-fabric stripe down the leg - can be sophisticated and super-sexy. Just look at Angelina Jolie, who wears them regularly on the red carpet.

It's what you wear underneath, from the top down to the attitude, that makes a difference.

"It's what gives the woman a little tailored naughtiness," says Calvin Klein creative director Francisco Costa. "It's very sleek. It's for that kind of woman who really likes to have that spirit - easy in pants, structured shoulders. It says something about her: She's a little different than everyone else."

The woman in the tuxedo suit always stands out, Costa says, but not in the same way as a woman in a red dress, or something low-cut or sheer. "The idea of equality is bold and represents a freedom. ... I think it's provocative."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Go small on New Year's Eve

Don't want a grand affair to end the year? Here are some tips for throwing a small, stylish NYE party

PIER 1
Festive striped stemware

PIER 1
Gold mosaic barware

IKEA
Godis Mix glasses

IKEA
Nysno serving plate

BALLARD DESIGNS
Animal-printed casserole dish

Maybe it's because of cost, space or just overall effort, but many people prefer hosting a smaller New Year's Eve get-together rather than a grand affair. Still, they want to send off the old year in memorable style.

E-vites are a free, convenient way to get the word out.

Web invitation sites let you track RSVPs, and provide a map with directions for your guests.

A traditional paper invite, however, is a nice touch. Make sure you're clear about details, including what will be served — is it dinner or just appetizers? Dress up or just show up?

Matching your invitation to your party's style scheme — elegant, free-wheeling or nostalgic cosy — will set the tone.

The invitation's a talisman that helps guests prepare for the evening.

Style at Home magazine's editor Christine O'Hanlon suggests picking a colour scheme for the party and sticking to it. Ikea's blue and white star dish and paper goods collection would suit a dressy or casual affair.

Ballard Designs has some fun safari-print serving ware. Pier 1's colourful, striped glassware and candlesticks have a festive vibe.

Canadian interior designer Candice Olson, who is working on a new HGTV behind-the-design series, Candice Tells All, shares some easy, creative party ideas:

Switch it up

Turn the Christmas tree into a "New Year's Eve Tree" by removing the Santa and reindeer ornaments and replacing them with party favours — hats, streamers and colourful beads.

Time to party

"Utilize a countdown theme, and play with numbers as decorating ideas," says Olson. "Apply stick-on numbers to glasses (it's a good way to know whose glass is whose), serve number-cut cookies, and put adhesive numbers on pillar candles. Use an inexpensive roll of white art paper, cut to fit the length of your table. Stencil or paint oversize numbers down the centre for an eye-catching table display." She suggests setting out a group of vintage alarm clocks on a small table, all set to ring at midnight.

Keep things rolling

Small gatherings are more susceptible to lulls, so have fun things to do.

A great icebreaking idea, says Olson, is to create your own low-tech photo booth with a digital camera and nearby printer, or instant cam. Set out a selection of fun props and accessories. Snap two of everything, so guests have a souvenir and you can create a post-party album.

O'Hanlon suggests icebreakers like trivia, word and board games. Add a little social competitiveness by offering a small prize — perhaps a DVD, or a gourmet gift card.

Use a side table, console or desk as a bar cart, unless you already have one. Keep libations simple, with a signature cocktail and a couple of drink pitchers, including alcohol-free.

Set up food buffet-style, with appetizer-size nibblers.

A round table or two offers a great spot for noshers to gather if you prefer sitting to standing around.

To finish the evening, set out bowls of colourful candies, mints, cookies and mini desserts, along with little take-out containers. Guests can bring home a bit more party flavour to enjoy before the resolutions kick in on Jan. 1. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A resolution of decor

New Year's resolution: To be the perfect decorator and have the perfect home

PIER 1
▶ A round, pedestal-based dining table is perfect for small spaces.

DECOR MOMENT

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

It's nearing the end of the year and my resolutions are piling up: Lose weight, eat healthy, live a stress-less life. But my biggest resolution is to complete all the small decorating projects that have been lingering since the renovation of my house last year.

Drapes in the dining room, a new faucet in the guest bathroom and a carpet runner for the upstairs hallway are just a few. Here's a list of other forgotten decor chores that could use some updating, all of which will make me a hipper decorator, I'm sure.

UPDATING MY LOOK

It's time to re-frame a few older pieces of art; the ones with the 1970's frames are in desperate need of a facelift. A simple frame with a soft, metallic sheen (either silver or gold) can make any piece of art feel updated. I'm digging out the measuring tape, making sure that all my art is hung approximately 66 inches from the floor to the middle of the art. Lowering my artwork will actually make my ceilings look taller (great design trick) and give it new perspective.

BEING A WARMER PERSON

My dining room window desperately needs fabric and the master bedroom needs some warming up. I'm thinking of a lightweight plain wool fabric with a coloured ribbon sewn onto the inside edge and across the bottom.

Having my drapes lined in polar-fleece type fabric will give them a full body, block sun and provide great installation from the heat and cold.

GETTING IN SHAPE

I have a beautiful dining table but it's not the right shape for the space I've allotted for dinner parties. My space is square, therefore I need a round or square-shaped table.

My fabulous oval table is overbearing in the square space and should find a new home in a longer, rectangular room. My ideal table would have a pedestal base. Corner legs tend to get in the way when squeezing extra guests at the table.

BECOMING HIP

It's time for an update ... My Barely There alabaster-coloured paint is washing itself out and my walls are crying for more umph! I'm thinking about giving into the trend of darker walls and a rich, warm grey will add drama and cool down all the neutral taupe, brown and cream that I have collected in sofas, area rugs and wood furniture. Perhaps a few new pillows, lampshades and glass vases in colours like bright yellow or purple will help keep my living room on trend without a huge investment.

What is your decorating resolution for this year? Is it to add more personality to your space, to complete the furnishings or to add a new colour to the walls? I'd love to hear about your plans and projects so please send a photo (I always love to see ugly before shots) and a short description of your decorating projects to home@metronews.ca.

Happy Decorating!

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A fine choice for pho

SHARI GOODMAN

▶ Pho with Shrimp and BBQ Pork

Knowing which Vietnamese dish to order is key to avoiding dish envy

LUNCH RUSH

SHARI GOODMAN
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

Is this Kanata's hottest pho house? It would appear so, given the lineup to get a table in the small, busy restaurant.

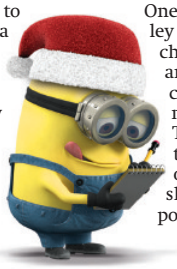
Knowing what to order at any restaurant is the secret. Unfortunately, I didn't.

The Satay Chicken Special ($9.95) written on the whiteboard caught my eye. Chicken satay without peanuts.

Though traditional Vietnamese, it was too delicate, causing me to make use of the table-side hoisin sauce to give it some pop.

Even though there weren't enough chicken pieces hiding under all the vegetables and stuck-together flat noodles, it satisfied my hunger.

But I had dish envy. My lunch buddies were enjoying their choices: slurping, oohing, ahhing and licking their bowls clean.



One had the medley of BBQ pork, chicken, shrimp and squid over crispy fried egg noodles ($9.75). The other had a traditional bowl of pho with shrimp and BBQ pork ($6.95). Lesson learned.

- **Phu-Yen**
- **700 March Rd., Kanata**
- **613-599-0006**
- **Rating: *****
- **Price range: $$**
- **Reservations: Yes**
- **Licensed: Yes**

Beef Tourtière

Ingredients:

- 500 g (1 lb) ground beef
- 250 g (1/2 lb) ground pork
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) chicken broth
- 1 each minced onion and minced garlic clove
- Celery stalk, diced
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) each dried thyme and sage
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) ground cloves and cinnamon
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) mashed potatoes
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) fresh parsley, minced
- 2 frozen pie shells (each 23 cm/9 inches), thawed

Beef Tourtière Preparation:

1. In a large, deep skillet over medium-high heat, pan-fry ground beef, ground pork, onion and garlic. Drain. Add chicken broth, celery, thyme, sage, cloves and cinnamon; cook for 10 minutes or until no liquid remains. Remove from heat. Stir in mashed potatoes and parsley.
2. Spoon into pie shell. Top with second pie crust and cut steam vents in top crust.
3. Bake in a 200 C (400 F) oven until hot and golden brown, 35 to 45 minutes. Makes 8 servings. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Holiday Gift Sets $9.99 up
German Pork Hock + Chicken Leg Roll $18.88
Smoked Turkey Party Tray $22.88
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$28.88 Christmas Santa Claus Cake Mixed Fruit 8"
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The season to sparkle

ISTOCK

Top toys

Find out what children around the world are hoping to see under their Christmas trees this year. {page 34}

Gifts that glitter

Great gifts for that special lady in your life. {page 37}

2 days until Dec. 25

Top toys around the world

What's the most popular gift for young ones, and the young-at-heart? We asked local retailers in 14 different countries. Some have real Buzz.

UNITED STATES, UNITED KINGDOM, SPAIN

JET PACK BUZZ LIGHTYEAR

Why popular: Sorry Dad, he doesn't actually fly, but the jetpack makes whirring sounds, and the laser is movie-accurate. Plus: He says things from "Toy Story 3."
(SOURCE: TOYS R US; BRITAIN'S TOY RETAILERS ASSOCIATION; JUGUETERIA FANTASIA)

HOLLAND

MINI-KITCHEN BY MIELE

Why popular: This toy oven has more features than your own, and plays music, too.
(SOURCE: BART SMIT)

CANADA

BARBIE VIDEO GIRL WITH BUILT-IN VIDEO CAMERA

Why popular: You can record up to 30 minutes of movie, via a camera hidden in Barbie's chest. Very cool but a little creepy.
(SOURCE: CANADIAN TOY ASSOCIATION; ONE OF 108 HOT TOYS)

SWEDEN, ITALY, FRANCE

PAPER JAMZ ELECTRIC GUITAR

Why popular: Black Sabbath. Judas Priest. Lady Gaga. Kids can play anything on this paper-thin, battery-operated guitar.
(SOURCE: METRO SWEDEN; LITTLE BIG TOWN; GRAND PRIX DU JOUET)

MEXICO

DINO VALLEY TOY SETS

Why popular: Kids can act out "Jurassic Park" in the safety of their own home.
(SOURCE: MERCERIA DEL REFUGIO)

BRAZIL

LIV DOLLS

Why popular: Barbie is a nerd compared to these fashionistas, who shop, skateboard and rock out after getting their nails done.
(SOURCE; RIHAPPY)

SOUTH AFRICA

OREGON SMARTGLOBE

Why popular: Touch the pen to any country and you'll hear interesting facts, updatable online.
(SOURCE: REGGIE'S)

AUSTRALIA

BEYBLADE METAL FUSION BATTLE TOP

Why popular: String a ripcord through the top and these discs spin around, knock one another off the table.
(SOURCE: TOYS R US AUSTRALIA)

HONG KONG

BANDAI BEN 10 LEGACY OMNITRIX

Why popular: The "Ben 10" anime series follows a kid who wears an Omnitrix, the ultimate weapon, on his wrist.
(SOURCE: TOYS R US HONG KONG)

RUSSIA

WELLY DIE-CAST TOY CARS

Why popular: Do you have to ask? Everyone wants a Lamborghini.
(SOURCE: DETSKY MIR)

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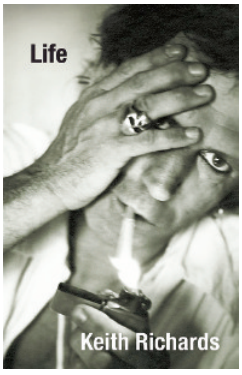
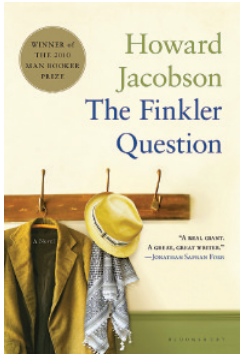
For your bookworm...





LIFE, BY KEITH RICHARDS

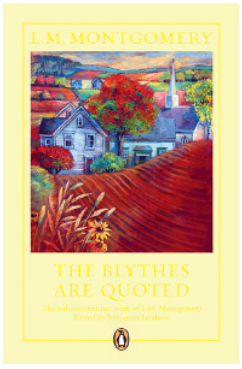
A critically-acclaimed autobiography by one of the world's best-known rock stars. $16.99 at Amazon.ca.

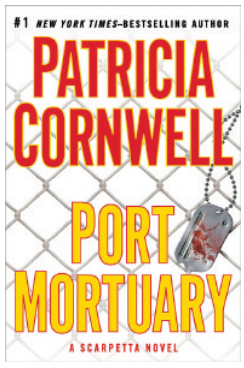
COAL BUST KISSES, BY WILL FERGUSON

A rich, layered Christmas memoir which spans generations, told with warmth and humour. $16 at major retailers.

THE FINKLER QUESTION, BY HOWARD JACOBSEN

A scorching story of friendship and loss, exclusion and belonging, and of the wisdom and humanity of maturity, told with humour and poise. $18.50 at major retailers.





THE BLYTHES ARE QUOTED, BY L.M. MONTGOMERY

The last, previously-unpublished work of fiction by the author of Anne of Green Gables contains 15 short stories dealing with darker themes of adultery, revenge, murder and death. $14 at major retailers.

THE SHERLOCKIAN, BY GRAHAM MOORE

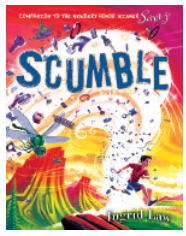
A detective-story-within-a-detective-story that delves into the history of Sherlock Holmes and his creator Arthur Conan Doyle. $32 at major retailers.

PORT MORTUARY, BY PATRICIA CORNWELL

The eighteenth novel in Patricia Cornwell's popular forensic science series sees heroine Kay Scarpetta embroiled in a case that could ruin her professional career and personal life. $32.50 at major retailers.

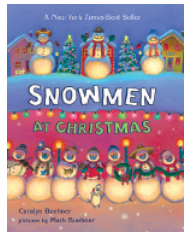
RAF BRUSILOW

For the kids



Scumble by Ingrid Law

A fast-paced adventure in the legendary Wild West filled with Ingrid Law's signature heart and humour. $21 at major retailers



Snowmen at Christmas by Caralyn Buehner

The book offers a funny look at what snowmen do when Christmas arrives. $8.50 board book, $24 hardback at major retailers.

RAF BRUSILOW

...and for your moviephile

ROBIN HOOD

RAF BRUSILOW

Russell Crowe and Cate Blanchett revisit the swashbuckling classic. Blu-Ray + DVD disc + digital copy, $29.99 at major retailers.

GREEN ZONE

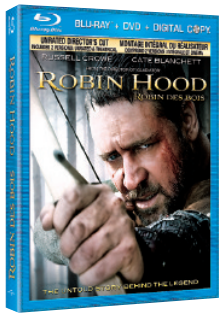
Matt Damon reunites with Bourne Ultimatum director Paul Greengrass. Blu-Ray + digital copy, $32.99 at major retailers.

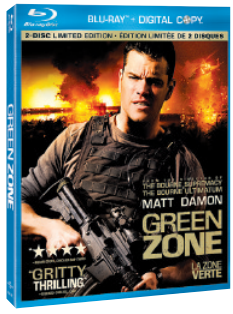
DEVIL

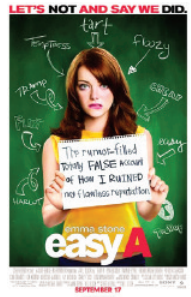
Five people are trapped in an elevator in this tension-filled supernatural thriller. Blu-Ray, $29.99 at major retailers

EASY A

Funny teen romp about a girl and how a few little white lies turn her life into a modern-day version of the Scarlett Letter. $19.99 on iTunes.







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Stuff for all your men

Hair, face and body care gifts for the fellas from Janine Falcon

1

La Mer The Lip Balm, $58
Sure this lightly minty smoothing and softening protective balm is a splurge. Think of it as an investment in kissing. If you like that sort of thing.
Holt Renfrew

2

Crabtree & Evelyn Nomad Hair & Body Wash, $20
He doesn't have to be a world traveller to appreciate the exotic sandalwood, ginger, citron and green bamboo notes in this energizing multi-tasker.
crabtreeniagara.ca

3

Origins Express Male Face Kit, $40
Blade Runner shave cream gives glide with natural oils; Fire Fighter calms with chamomile and cucumber; and Save the Males offers antioxidant hydration.
Select Bay stores.

4

Badger Muscle Rub, $18.35 (includes natural balm stick, not shown)
This natural balm preps muscles and joints for activity and soothes them afterward with cayenne pepper extract, and ginger, cardamom, rosemary and lemongrass oils. **Well.ca.**

5

John Varvatos 10th Anniversary Special Edition Fragrance, $97
With warm patchouli, amber and woody notes, this scent by menswear designer John Varvatos brings sexy back to the bureau as well as the man. **Department stores; Murale.**

6

Redken for Men 2 in 1 Clean Spice Conditioning Shampoo, $13.79
This morning pick-me-up wakes up the scalp and the senses as well as boosts hair manageability.
redken.ca for salons.

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Glitter gifts

1

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1 CALVIN KLEIN GLINT BRACELET, $150
A kiss on the wrist can be quite continental. The Bay.

2 GISELE NECKLACE, $200 WITH MATCHING EARRINGS
crimson-coloured stunner is high on our wish list. Swarovski.

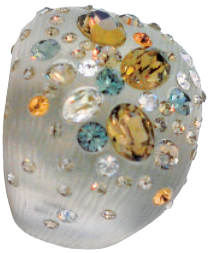
3 CHUNKY NECKLACE, $29.95
Balance the delicate with this funky, chunky bead-and-rope combo. H&M.

4 ALEXIS BITTAR RING, $240
You will have a hard time finding a woman who doesn't go gaga over the New York-based artist's Lucite designs. ekojewellery.com.

5 KURVE CLOCK NECKLACE, $28
Keep his memory alive with this lovely charm necklace. Available thorugh kurvejewellery.com

6 TIFFANY SNOWMAN CHARM, $240
An adorable snowperson. Charmed, she's sure to be. Tiffany. JORDANA DIVON

3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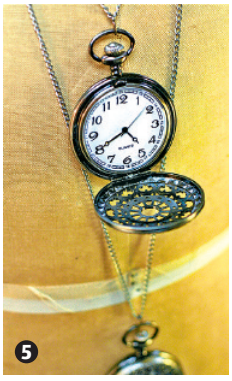
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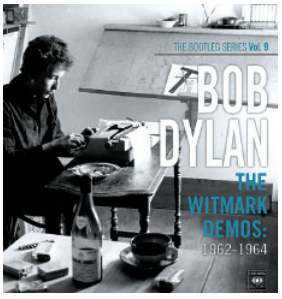
Music picks

Nelly Furtado The Best of Nelly Furtado $18.74 at Walmart
Deluxe two-CD edition features Furtado's No. 1 smash hits, collaborations and three previously unreleased tracks.

Journey Revelation (2 CDs + 1 DVD) $11.88 exclusive at Walmart
The thirteenth studio album from '80s rock giants Journey comes with a DVD of live performances and packs in a total of 24 songs.



Bob Dylan 1962-1964 Witmark Demos $18.99 at Amazon.ca
A two-CD collection of 47 stripped-down songs, 15 of which have never been released before by the legendary singer songwriter.

Black Eyed Peas The E.N.D. $13.74 at Walmart
The Peas' rocking fifth album features the hit songs Boom Boom Pow, Imma Be, Meet Me Halfway and I Gotta Feeling.

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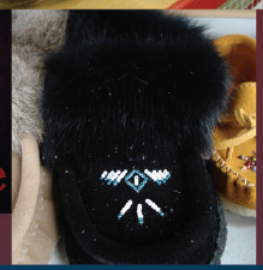

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